



First Meet of Himalayan Young Researchers

September 7–9, 2014

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora 263 643, Uttarakhand, INDIA

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Dr Rakesh C Sundriyal received PhD degree (1986-87) from HNB Garhwal University for his studies on the dynamics of alpine grasslands of central Himalaya. While in G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India) he served Sikkim Unit (1989 to 1997), Northeast Unit (1997-2004) and HQs (2004 onwards) in various capacities. During 2009 to July 2012 he served as Director, Herbal Research & Development Institute.

He has conducted intensive researches on temperate grasslands and forests, dynamics of natural ecosystem functioning in Himalayan watersheds, non-timber forest products, ecotourism & biodiversity conservation, and medicinal plant sectors. Dr Sundriyal made significant contributions towards understanding on plant-animal interaction in high altitude grasslands in central and eastern Himalaya; structure and functioning of forest, grassland and agricultural systems; and investigated issues related to traditional ecological knowledge on natural resources management, particularly wild edible plants and other NTFPs. In order to improve livelihoods of marginal Himalayan farmers he was actively involved in devising 'Agroforestry model approach' and 'Contour-Hedgerow-Farming-System-Technology' for sustainable development of rural communities. Dr Sundriyal has also worked on biodiversity conservation through promotion of ecotourism. He was instrumental in providing technical backup for environmental protection and livelihood enhancement to local inhabitants, and made significant efforts for promoting cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants in the state of Uttarakhand.

He mentored over 15 PhD and MSc students and authored over 130 research articles and 5 edited books. He is elected Fellow of National Institute of Ecology (1995) and has been conferred Vishist Vaigyanik award of Ministry of Environment & Forests.